THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (c) The Government are aware of the problems faced by the sugar factories on account of large stocks of sugar and cane price arrears. In recent months, the Central Government initiated several steps for benefit of sugar industry including creation of a Buffer Stock of 20 lakh tonnes of sugar (in December, 2002) for a period of one year, reimbursement of internal transport charges and neutralization of ocean freight disadvantage on exports of sugar.

Bridge over Brahmaputra at Sadiya

1979. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for construction of a bridge over Brahmaputra river at Sadiya in Assam is under consideration of NEC;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken during Tenth Plan period and target set for the same;

(c) the details of the proposal, present status and target set for implementation of the permanent flood control measures on Jiadhol river to protect NH 52 at Samarajan of Dhemaji district, Assam which is breached every year due to flood; and

(d) the reasons for delay and target set for completion of model study of this highest priority assignment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) A proposal for construction of a bridge over Brahmaputra at Sadiya, Assam is not presently under examination in NEC. The NEC has, however, taken in hand the Feasibility Study for construction of a bridge over river Brahmaputra, connecting Dhola and Sadiya in Assam. The Tender for the Feasibility Study has been called and the last date for receipt of Request of Issue of Tender is 14th August, 2003. The Feasibility Study will be conducted after finalizing the tender. The Feasibility Study includes a Model Study which will take more than one year to complete.

(c) and (d) The Model Study of Jiadhol River has already been completed as per target and the Report has been submitted to the Water Resources Department, Government of Assam for preparation of Detailed Estimates. Details of completion schedule will be clear after submission of the Detailed Estimates by Government of Assam.

Assistance to Tripura under the Non-lapsable Central Pool Resources

1980. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Tripura have submitted a number of schemes to the Council of Development of North Eastern Region for implementation under Non-lapsable Central Pool Resources during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the names of the projects and the funds sought for;

(c) how many of these projects have been taken up for execution uptill now; and

(d) by when other proposed projects would be taken for execution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Government of Tripura have submitted a priority list of nineteen proposals to the Department of Development of North Eastern Region during 2003-2004 for consideration under the Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR).

(b) Details are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) Nil.

(d) These proposals are under consideration of the Department.